STATEMENT-IV

Number of election petition filed before various High Courts relating to the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in April/May, 1996.

S.No	Name of State/ Union Territory	Election petitions filed before High Court
1	2	3
1	Assam	11
2	Haryana	20
3	Kerala	16
4	Tamil Nadu	8
5	West Bengal (Information not yet received)	
6	Pondicherry (Information not yet received)	
	Total	55

Saving Rate

*411 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether saving rate in the country has been declining since 1990-91;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of Gross Domestic Savings and the Gross Domestic Production since 1990-91, year-wise;

(c) the main reasons for this decline; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the savings scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : As per the latest information available with the Central Statistical Organisation the saving rate measured as a ration of gross domestic savings to gross domestic product (GDP) at current market prices rose from 23.6 per cent in 1990-91 to 24.4 per cent in 1994-95 (Quick Estimate). The trends in gross domestic savings (GDS) and GDP at current market prices are indicated below :

Year	GDS	GDP	Savings Rate %
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	(Rupees Crore)		
1990-91	126652	535534	23.6
1991-92	140647	616799	22.8
1992-93	149365	705328	21.2
1993-94	171184	801032	21.4
1994-95 (Q)	230648	945615	24.4

Q : Quick Estimate

For promoting savings it is imperative to improve the parameters which have a bearing on savings behaviour. These include rate of growth in economy, level of fiscal deficit, tax policies, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and the capital market and confidence in the economy. The various economic reform measures underataken so far are expected to have a favourable impact on aggregate savings. Besides, the Central Government Budget for 1996-97 presented to the Parliament a few days ago contains various measures/policy changes which are likely to have a positive impact on savings.

[Translation]

Coal supply to Badarpur Power Units

*412. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA
SHRI NITISH KUMAR

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to teh news item apearing in the Indian Express dated August, 7, 1996 under the caption "inadequate coal supply forces closure of the Badarpur Power Units";

(b) if so, the reasons for inadequate supply of coal to two units of the Badarpur Power Unit; and

(c) the steps taken to improve present coal supply position to various power plants in the country particularly to Badarpur Power Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Coal companies are making supplies to teh Badarpur Thermal Power Station as per linkages sanctioned to this station. However, apart from interruptions in rail movement, teh coal companies are occasionally constrained to restrict the supplies of coal to the extent of payment received for coal supplies in view of the large outstanding arrears from this power station.

(c) Coal supplies to the power plants in the country, including Badarpur Thermal Power Station, are accorded the highest priority. Supply of coal to the power sector is monitored regularly by an inter-

ministerial Group. Besides clearance of outstanding arrears pertaining to Badarpur TPS is pressed with the relevant authorities.

[English]

Expansion of Services by Insurance Sector

*413. SHRI SURESH KALMADI
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed two new schemes in the Insurance sector aimed at benefitting middle classes and the poor;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the details of the proposal being considered for revamping of General Insurance Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) An announcement regarding introduction of two new schemes viz. 'Jeevan Suraksha' by LIC and 'Jan Arogya' by GIC was made in the Budget speech for 1996-97. In pursuance of that announcement, 'Jan Arogya' has been introduced w.e.f. 12th August, 1996 while 'Jeevan Suraksha' has been introduced w.e.f. 15th August,1996.

The salient features of the two Schemes are as under

Jeevan Suraksha :

The Scheme is intended to help individuals to provide for retirement income by facilitating saving during their working career. On survival of the life assured to the vesting age and subject to the payment of all the premiums during the premium paying term, a normal pension during the life time of the life assured or commutation of 25% of the normal pension for a lumpsum and a balance of 75% of the normal pension will be payable during the life time of the life assured. In the event of death of the life assured during the period of saving, the surviving spouse will be entitled to 50% pension which the assured would have been entitled to, had he paid all premiums and survived upto the vesting age. The minimum age at entry will be 30 years and the maximum age at entry will be 60 years.

Jan Arogya :

The Scheme is primarily meant for the larger segment of the population who can not afford the high cost of medical treatment. The limit of cover per person is Rs. 5,000/- per annum. The premium for an adult individual is Rs. 70/- upto 45 years of age.

Persons beyond 45 years and upto 70 years can also be covered with slightly higher premium. A family of four comprising husband, wife and two children below the age of 25 can be covered for Rs. 5,000/- per head by paying annually a sum of Rs. 240/- only. The cover provides for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by an individual towards hospitalisation/domicilliary hospitalisation for any illness, injury or disease contracted or sustained during the period of insurance.

(c) The common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the Government envisages restructuring of insurance industry in the light of the experience gained in the working of the banking sector. The Interim Insurance Regulatory Authority set up by the Government has been entrusted with the task of dealing with all matters relating to promotion and orderly growth of the insurance market and proposing comprehensive legislation for this purpose.

Quality Silk Centre

*414. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir have been asked to take up time-bound programme for the setting up of quality silk centres in the areas having large concentration of silk farmers and reelers;

(b) if so, how many States have so far decided to modernise its units;

(c) whether any Central assistance has been provided to these States in the regard; and

(d) if so, the extent of assistance provided?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (d) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir, which are the implementing agencies of the National Sericultural Project in sericulturally traditional States, propose to take up modernisation programmes for strengthening of infrastructure for quality upgradation.

The above programmes are proposed to be taken